

FOR THE

Democratic City Platform

The Democratic party of the city of Lexington in convention assembled, hereby reaffirms its allegiance to Democratic principles and its advocacy of Democratic policies. It commends the annunciation of principles adopted by the Democratic convention in Louisville and the splendid ticket nominated by the primary for state office.

Standing, as the Democratic party legal, honest Democrat or independent does, as the representative of the people's wishes and obedient to their demands, it presents to the voters of Lexington a ticket composed of men fitted by character and experience for the offices for which they were nominated at a primary election, conducted with absolute fairness, in which every voter had the right to vote, and in which every vote was counted as cast, and representing the overwhelming preponderance of the intelligence and property of the community and asks for them the support of the voters of Lexington.

As against a ticket selected by a small committee, and nominated by a convention dominated by negroes under the leadership of a few self-appointed white leaders, the Democratic party presents a ticket selected by a majority of the Democrats and nominated by the white voters of the city of Lexington. It deprecates the nomination of a ticket by such methods as those in evidence at the Republican convention, in which hundreds of negro voters, led like sheep to the slaughter, obeyed the sign of their appointed leader and nominated the men selected for them. It deplores the injection of the race question into local politics, through the effort of a few men, greedy for place and power, to ride into office upon a wave of ignorant passions, following the present blindly their white leaders, but continuing the possibility of grave danger in the future.

Freedom From Corporate Control.

The Democratic party has always stood for the rule of the people; it believes in such control of the city as all, and that the governmental unit, whether city, state or nation, shall be controlled by the people, not by any special interest. Public service corporations, and companies and persons having large interests in the city, have a direct financial interest in controlling municipal affairs, and such control is the greatest menace to the public good. Such interests seek to elect to office men who represent them, rather than the people. The present convention nominated for Mayor a man whose whole training as a lawyer has been in the employment of such corporations, and who has represented them in the city for many years. No greater calamity could befall Lexington than to have as its chief executive a man who nominally leaves the employment of such corporations with the hope and expectation of returning to their employment on the expiration of his term as Mayor.

As against this danger, the Democratic party offers the city of Lexington a clean ticket headed by an independent, conscientious and capable servant of the people who has demonstrated in public office that he is not controlled by any special interest of public service corporations. He pledges his candidates to protect the interests of the people in all public contracts, treating with justice and fairness the contractors, whether they be private or public service corporations, but owing first allegiance to the people and not to the contractors or the corporations.

Commission Form of Government.

Out of the storm of reaction was born the Commission Form of Government, as adapted to American cities, and that birth made that catastrophe a blessing to the nation. From it has come a new development in American city government. The experience of the cities which have adopted it has demonstrated that it is better adapted to the government of cities, than the old system, which was modeled after the National Government. The present system is archaic and cumbersome, and the advantages of the new system lie in the fact, that direct responsibility is coupled with direct authority, and while the adoption or non-adoption of the Commission Form of Government is not a party issue, yet its adoption means a non-partisan administration of the affairs of the city, and the Democratic party advocates its adoption at the November election.

We pledge our nominees for State Senator and Representatives to advocate such amendments to the present law, as may tend to make the proposed form more suitable in its adaptation to the needs of the city of Lexington.

The Public Schools.

The policy of a common school system supported by public taxes was first enunciated by Thomas Jefferson, and has been fostered and developed in accordance with Democratic principles by the Democratic party. We believe in the highest efficiency of the public schools, and as a means to this end, we advocate a school law for cities of Lexington, which shall place the schools under the control of a small school board, the city at large, at a minimum of the regular election, and without party embroilment. We desire to improve the condition of the schools, to advocate the granting of school suffrage with an educational qualification to women, and placing women on school boards.

City Depository.

The Democratic party pledges itself and its candidate for treasurer to appoint that bank or trust company the depository for city funds, which in the competition offers to the city the lowest rate.

Letting of Contracts.

The Democratic party pledges its candidates to let all contracts for public work and supplies after public advertising to the lowest and best bidder.

Enforcement of Laws.

The Democratic party pledges its candidates to enforce all statutes and ordinances of the city of Lexington.

Ford Issue for Sewers.

We believe that it is essential to the health of the citizens of Lexington that the Waring system of sewers be extended, and we favor the proposed bond issue for the purpose of constructing trunk sewers and for the construction of a sewage disposal plant.

System of Taxation.

Our "uniform ad valorem tax system" is unjust, in that in its operation real estate bears an undue proportion of the burden, and other classes of property escape taxation altogether. We favor a constitutional amendment to correct this evil and to remedy this injustice. The present administration, however, has in the past four years paid off all old debts, incurred under former administrations, will have at least \$80,000 in the sinking fund by January 1 next, and has this year installed valuable fire apparatus, thereby decreasing insurance rates, and we pledge the Democratic administration to lower the tax rate for 1912 to at least \$1.50 on each \$100, without any sacrifice of efficient service to the public.

Construction and Repair of Streets.

The system of levying special taxes by the front foot on property for the construction and reconstruction of streets with improved material is a universal use in American cities, and is based upon local and peculiar benefits, received by the general public. But we favor the passage of remedial legislation by which one-half of the cost of the reconstruction of streets with improved material shall be paid out of funds received by general taxation, and as far as possible proper adjustments made upon a basis with property owners who have paid the entire cost of such reconstruction of streets in the city. In 1910 the present administration submitted to the voters for their approval a plan by which each lot owner of the city could have been loaned to acquiring property owners, the contractors paid in cash, thereby saving to the property owners a large sum of money and a reasonable time given to property owners to have their streets reconstructed. This plan was opposed by the Republicans and rejected by the voters of the city. We are in favor of the use of as large a portion of the annual revenue for the reconstruction of streets as can be expended consistently with the other demands upon the city, out of the other two parts. We are in favor of the submission of the same plan to the voters at the next city election, and we are in favor of a reduced cost, by reason of payments in cash for work done. We favor the passage of ordinances imposing more stringent rules and regulations upon persons and corporations leasing up streets, so that such streets as are torn up will be required to be repaired promptly without damage or inconvenience to the public.

County Bond Issue.

We are opposed to the repudiation by the Fiscal Court of Fayette county, controlled by the Republican party, of debts honestly incurred and now due. We are in favor of the re-establishment and maintenance of the credit of Fayette county. The assessed value of all property in Fayette county for 1911 is about \$2,000,000 in excess of the assessment for 1910. The total tax exclusive of the levy for schools, in 1909 and 1910, was forty-seven cents in the city and county; while the levy for 1911, exclusive of the levy for schools, is forty-eight and one-eighth cents in each \$100 in the city, and 49 cents on each \$100 in the county. With this increased rate of taxation levied on an increased assessment, if the affairs of the county are administered economically with fair business ability, the issue of \$70,000 of bonds by the county is wholly unnecessary, and we oppose it. As an illustration of the failure on the part of the Fiscal Court to exercise fair business ability in the conduct of the affairs of the county, we refer to the fact that while an increased levy for turnpikes has been made, and more money spent on the pikes, yet it is notorious that the pikes are in worse condition now than they have ever been.

Organized Labor.

The history of economic and industrial freedom is largely an account of the contests waged and the victories won by organized labor. Believing in equal opportunity for all, a fair wage for a fair day's work, the Democratic party tenders to organized labor the recognition that is its due for its contribution to the independence of labor from the improper control of capital, and we urge the adoption by the General Assembly of such laws, as are necessary for the proper protection of labor from unnecessary dangers incident to industrial employment.

Fair Elections.

We declare ourselves in favor of fair primaries and elections, in which there shall be a free and equal participation by all voters entitled to take part therein. We also favor the enactment by the General Assembly of such laws, as shall effectively put into immediate force that plank in the State Democratic platform, which provides for compulsory primaries, held under the control and at the expense of the state or municipality.

Police and Fire Departments.

The members of the police and fire departments of the city of Lexington should be under civil service regulations, and entirely free from politics. To bring about this much desired result the Democratic Senator from the county of Fayette and the Democratic Representative from the city of Lexington in the General Assembly of Kentucky caused to be passed in the session of 1908 an act of the Legislature providing civil service rules for these departments. This bill was vetoed by the Republican Governor of the state of Kentucky, and again in the session of the Legislature in the

year 1910 a similar bill was re-enacted and again vetoed by the Republican Governor of Kentucky at the instance of Republican bosses in the city of Lexington. We pledge our party and our representatives in the Senate and Legislature to continue this fight until all policemen and firemen are selected and retained upon their merits and civil service rules.

Meter Inspection.

We favor the enactment of such legislation as may be necessary to establish in the city of Lexington a system of inspection of all gas, electric light and water meters, at a nominal cost, in order that consumers of gas, electricity and water may be protected in the amounts paid by them.

The Democratic Party Submits This Declaration of Principles and Purposes and its nominees to the voters of the city of Lexington and the county of Fayette, confident that the intelligence and patriotism of the people of this city and county will approve both.

CLINTON M. HARRISON,
JOHN SKAIN,
P. D. FOSTER,
SAMUEL W. WILSON.

THE WHITE SCHOOL.

It Looked Like the Negro School, but This Was a Mistake.

During one of my drives of exploration I passed a school in Spencer county, about thirty-five miles east of Louisville. At first sight I was sure I had stumbled upon a typical negro school, but as I went about the yard with my camera a farmer who lived near by came over to see what I was doing.

"How long has this colored school been here?" I asked.

"This is the white school, and I don't know how long it's been built. All I know is that it wasn't no ways new Pupils."

I had known for a long time that Kentucky's standing in matters educational was very low. I had known that she was in the grip of illiteracy, with all its attendant evils, but I had hardly expected to find such a large number of her rural population willing simply "to let things go." One day while chatting with a member of a county board of education in a rich county he happened to say:

"I tell you, I've been interested in education, mightily interested, for a long time. I've been on this board for mighty nigh ten years."

"I am delighted to hear you say that you are interested," I hastened to reply, "for you know Kentucky stands thirty-ninth in the list of the states when it comes to education. That's not very far from the end of the list. We need men like you to help us keep things moving."

The old gentleman stroked his grizzled beard thoughtfully, and I felt certain that I had made a vivid impression. A smile, a very small smile, wrinkled the corners of his eyes as he said quietly:

"I reckon you forgot one thing in this whole business—somebody's got to be tail enders, ain't they?"

I had a glimpse of rural Kentucky's attitude toward education.

Cattle and Children.

I was tired and discouraged after days of school inspection in Jefferson county, so I had decided to take a day off and visit the State Fair and see the sights.

"Blue ribbon!" I asked the man wearing a broad smile as he came down the main roadway.

"You bet!" he exclaimed. He caught sight of my camera and continued, "Don't you want to take a snapshot of my hifer?"

As he turned the splendid young animal into position for a photograph I had a chance to look her over carefully. I was certain she was of royal blood, for her horns looked like polished ebony, and she had been

"This here is a pauper school," upon the top of the winter's supply of coal. I was unable to find even the remains of any closet, so I again questioned my former friend.

"They ain't never had none since I been in the neighborhood."

"Haven't had any closets at all?" I exclaimed in amazement. "How can you teachers handle a school with out closets?"

The man hesitated a moment, shifted his quilt to the other side of his jaw and answered quietly:

"Gawd knows, I don't."

"How do you happen to have such a poor schoolhouse in this part of the county—the land looks pretty good?"

"You see, this here is a pauper school!"

I pretended not to understand him fully, so I asked:

"My land's too bad. I had no idea that the farmers up here on the headwaters of Salt river were so poor. You haven't even got a church in the neighborhood, then?"

"Oh, yes! We've got a mighty nice, brand-new church a mile out the pike from here."

"State built that, too?" I suggested.

"Why, no; the folks all chipped in and built it," he explained carefully.

"We ain't poor folks at all."

"Why couldn't you folks chip in and do something for this old tumble-down school?" I asked.

"We could have done it, couldn't we?" he exclaimed. "I reckon we just never thought about it that way."

Education Pays.

The state of Kansas, though less than sixty years old, has excellent schools, and her taxable property has increased at the rate of \$120,000,000 annually during the past ten years, a total increase of \$120,000,000 in a decade. This is twice the total assessment of Kentucky.

The valuation of real property in Kentucky is \$487,835,294. In Kansas the same class of property is valued at \$1,578,804,790.

The valuation of personal property in Kentucky was \$148,513,000; while in Kansas it was \$880,043,000.

The total assessed valuation in Kentucky was \$636,348,294 and in Kansas \$2,458,847,790.

The above figures are from the World Almanac for 1910.

SPECIAL PRICES For Saturday

AT THE CASH

White House Meat Market

Note These Prices on Pork

No. 1 sugar cured Picnic Hams - 10C

Smoked Bacon - 12 1-2C

White Bacon - 9, 11-2C

Plate Roast - 5C

Fresh Pork shoulders - 10C

Pork Butt Roast - 11c

Loin Pork Roast - 13c

Remember, this is the cheapest meat market in the city. All goods U. S. inspected.

White House Meat Market

343 WEST SHORT STREET.

GET YOUR FALL AND WINTER

SHOES

AT SPEARS & FORWOOD'S

211 NORTH LIMESTONE ST.

Good values at easy prices. Give us a call.

Porter & Jackson

Underlakers & Liverymen

145-147 Cor. Limestone & Church Sts.

The old reliable UNDERTAKERS of Lexington are doing business at the same old stand, and are better prepared than ever to serve the public. Black and White Funeral Cars, Rubber Tired Carriages, Surreys, Buggies, Traps, Stanhopes and Buckboards, all in good order.

PRICES IN BOTH DEPARTMENTS TO SUIT. Office: Both Phones 364. Residence New Phone 648. Open Day and Night

Don't Ruin Your Hair

with poisonous pomades—hot irons—hot combs and other harmful hair lotions.

Use ZOTINA

FOR THE HAIR

Original and Only Scientific Remedy

Guaranteed to Straighten the Hair

Make it soft and pliable, easy to comb, glossy and beautiful

Used by the Entire Profession

Price, 50c. and \$1.00 by mail

Manufactured only by the

ZOTINA REMEDY COMPANY

Tampa, Fla. Dept. 13

AS BAD AS THAT?

Are Kentuckians Willing to Be "Tail Enders?"

FINE CATTLE AND CHILDREN.

One Man to Care For Seven Jersey Heifers and One Teacher For Thirty-six, Sixty and Even a Hundred Pupils.

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DAVIESS SCHOOLS

The Observer Takes a Trip With a Camera.

IS BLEAK AS A CATTLE BARN

Schoolhouse For White Pupils a "Crying Shame" and Those For Colored Children Almost Beyond the Flight of Imagination.

Simply to show that these conditions, these same wretched school conditions, are common all over the state I went to Daviess county, in the western part of Kentucky. This is another of those old, rich communities that were luxurious and prosperous long before the civil war, and it is therefore able to build and equip comfortable schools for all of the children within its borders. Out in what is known as the—but I must not show pictures and tell names at the same time—where corn, tobacco, hay and wheat are grown in perfection, I discovered a poor little school building that was almost ready to go to pieces. Its front looked as if the children had needed extra fuel or kindling during the cold weather for their old battered drum stove. I am glad to be able to say that

almost ready to go to pieces. A new building is soon to replace this one, and it is high time, for the county superintendent said:

"It's a shame, a crying shame. I know it and feel it all the time; so do any number of other superintendents all over the state. But what can we do when the general public simply says over and over again, 'I want to school like that one, got my education, 'I ever had, and what was good enough for me is good enough for my own children, I reckon?'"

We went inside the old shack, and the county superintendent asked me to look at the rough walls. The knife hewn desks of a pattern long out of date. Then he said:

"What kind of work can you get out of 'em when it's so much worse than they are used to at home? Mighty rough, isn't it? But that isn't the real tough part of it. I came out here during a sudden cold snap, last winter to see how they could heat the school. You'll notice they have a piece of an old stove in the middle of the room and there is no protector about it to distribute the heat. I made the child who was sitting next to the stove move his seat, and I placed a thermometer where he had been sitting, busy with his lessons. THE MERCURY RACED UP TO 110 DEGREES. I took the same thermometer and hung it against the far wall of the wind shaken house. IT DROPPED SUDDENLY TO 40 DEGREES. No child could do real mental

work with this difference in temperature in the schoolroom, and there was grave danger for the children physically."

If the white schools in old Kentucky are bad the negro schools in many localities are almost beyond the flight of imagination. At a small village in this county of Daviess I ran across a very poor one, not any worse than others I had seen, but it was rather peculiar in its style of architecture. The windows were broken, the door unlocked and partly ajar, the front steps entirely gone, and the fence that had once separated the building from the roadway had disappeared except for some lonely pieces of posts. On pushing open the loose door I saw a bleak interior, with trash covering a badly warped floor. The room contained a rusty stove, overflowing ashes on to the floor, and two rickety benches made of undressed lumber. The walls of the room were made of undressed siding nailed to studding and stripped. There had never been any inner wall of plaster or ceiling to keep out the cold. IT WAS AS BLEAK AS A CATTLE BARN. Is it any wonder that illiterate stalks a menacing figure about the old state of "the dark and bloody ground?"

To assist in the strong campaign necessary for the development of the educational movement buttons bearing the inscription "My \$ for improvement Kentucky schools" are to be sold by the educational committee in Louisville.

DAVIESS COUNTY, KY.

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